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SWNOC 257/12

22 May 1946

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STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

EXPLOITATION OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS
BY THE UNITED STATES AVIATION INDUSTRY
Reference: SWNOC 257/9/D

Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a memorandum by the State Member, is circulated
for consideration by the Committee.

ALEXANDER D. REID

B. L. AUSTIN

HAROLD W. MOSELEY

Secretariat

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WE
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CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

EXPLOITATION OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS BY THE
UNITED STATES AVIATION INDUSTRY

Memorandum by the State Member, SWHCC

The Department of Commerce in SWHCC 257/3/D recommended that the Department of State take action to make available to the aviation industry for interview and questioning such members of the group of German scientists now or hereafter in this country as are qualified in aeronautical and directly related matters.

Prior to the submission of this paper to SWHCC the Department of Commerce raised directly with the Department of State several questions relating to the exploitation of German scientists, including questions of interviews 1) between United States Government representatives and German scientists already in this country and 2) between science and industry representatives and German scientists already in this country. The Department of State in its reply (Appendix) gave its approval in principle to "arrangements which might be made through the Department of Commerce for such interviews".

It is believed that the aforementioned letter covers the point raised in SWHCC 257/3/D, in as much as no further action by the Department of State to "take action to make available to the aviation industry for interview and questioning such scientists" would be appropriate. The Office of the Publication Board, Department of Commerce, has been so informed.

In view of the foregoing I recommend that SWHCC 257/3/D be withdrawn from the Agenda.

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APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
GA

March 27, 1946

My Dear Mr. Green:

An answer to your letter of January 16, 1946 addressed to Mr. Clayton has been delayed pending consideration by the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee of the problem of exploiting German scientists on a long-term basis. A solution has been worked out in SWNCC memorandum Number 287/3. I understand that the Department of Commerce, as the designated operating agency under the proposals made in the SWNCC memorandum, has recently approved these proposals.

The SWNCC directive, of course, refers only to category D of your letter of January 16, ("Importation of German scientists for permanent acquisition"). With respect to category G ("Importation of German scientists for suitable interviews and return"), I would agree with your observation that, in view of the problems of importation, exploitation on this basis might be relatively unproductive. It would seem that a better procedure might be worked out by detailing members of the Technical Industrial Intelligence Board to make suitable inquiries in Germany.

With respect to your categories A ("Interviews between United States Government representatives and German scientists already in this country") and B ("Interviews between science and industry representatives and German scientists already in this country"), the Department would approve arrangements which might be made through the Department of Commerce for such interviews, provided that adequate measures were taken to ensure the public, free, and

Mr. J. C. Green, Executive Secretary,
Office of the Publication Board,
Department of Commerce,
Washington 25, D.C.

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general dissemination in the United States of information so obtained. With respect to category A, interviewing agencies would be expected to provide suitable administrative procedures to effect such dissemination. With respect to category B, representatives of science and industry should be designated by industrial or scientific societies or associations (e.g., the American Society of Mechanical Engineers) approved by you, and suitable arrangements made by you with these societies to assure the desired dissemination.

Where security considerations might be involved, I should think that the War or Navy Departments, in arranging these interviews with the Department of Commerce, would take such measures as might be necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Willard L. Thorp
Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for
Economic Affairs